which spent most of the night at the the young electrician was standing bebulletin-board were gathering again, side his desk. Then he glanced at him At no time had the place been entire- sidewise inquiringly. ly deserted. Several men had never been out of eyeshot of the bulletins. One of them, a shock-headed youth in overalls and wearing the cap of a government electrician, sat on the stone curbing by the entrance to the back his hair in an abstracted, prepower station, smoking a small black pipe, seemingly more occupied with occupied manner. The young man, meditation than observation. his petition.

Most of the men who were now gathering about the board, were coal miners on their way to the shafts. Here and there were electricians. The vastness of the power station from which they had come, was no more than suggested from where the crowd stood, the buildings being partially hid in a grove of trees.

The groups of miners and electricians were almost silent. They seemed to have exhausted comment and sur-mise, and to be waiting for the tangible Leave of absence! Man, go back to to take place of conjecture.

On the Verge of War.

In Washington the federal news editor apparently had worn out himself and his staff in keeping up a detailed becoming thoroughly angry, "I'll have account of the all-night session of Congress. As daylight came, the service tion." wabbled, and what had been a connected, well-sustained story of congressional proceedings had slumped to a series of jerky bulletins of which the last had come a half-hour before, read-

Williams still has the floor. He is making no headway against the major. He bent over his senior, speaking rapidity. War seems inevitable."

To the men starting for the shafts this carried no news which they had print, spreading it before Shod. The no known before they had gone away, anger of the older man gave way to a few hours earlier, to get such sleep astonishment. He was held spelland rest as they could. While they stood watching, another

bulletin came: "Congress has taken an hour's recess for breakfast. No action."

The coal miners in the crowd read several moments. Then he said: this, and then started for work. Soon! there were left only a few scattered a chance to lose. It might be our sal-

Young Inventor Busy.

"I want a two weeks' leave of absence."

"Mr. Shod," said the younger man,

The elder then looked squarely at

him but did not reply, merely brushing

"Go back to work," said Shod, finally,

seeming to dismiss the request as pre-

calmly, but his manner changed, and

he brought his fist down on the desk

"Atsins, you make me think your

Look here—a message from the chief,

crazy. Haven't you read the bulletins?

'We expect you to run double capacity

Atsins became confused and awk-

"If you even ask again," cried Shod,

you locked up for attempting deser-

Daring Plan Explained.

He wheeled around in his chair, and

busied himself with the wires leading

hesitated an instant, and then suddenly lost his awkwardness and became alert.

off the keyboard on his desk. Atsins

to his pocket, and stood waiting.

Shod contemplated him silently for

"You have a chance. It is too great

wardly abashed: but he persisted,

nevertheless, urging great necessity.

as he added sharply:

work."

In all this unprepared country, no one appreciated so thoroughly the im- from now until notified otherwise." pending danger as did Montrus, the unortunate commander-in-chief of the

action by rashness.

of electricity in the national university, when transferred to the military service, having, prior to this been an instructor in one of the national military schools. In appearance he was scholastic, his figure spare and bent, his hair and eyes gray, and his face

out of the window across the Potomac -the only inactive figure in the War Department-when one of his aides en-

waited for an answer without repeating "Curtis had been located," said the aide. "He is at Kiel. We got his signal followed by some code which is posterous. He had started to speak

> "Curtis says he is effectually hidden, and can send electrigraphs if we can ake them." "Where is he?" asked Montrus eager-

"We have, but he warns us not to

try often. I suppose his position is precarious at best." "Tell him to send what he can," an-

swered Montrus. "I'll go into the tower to take it."

burned in the memory of every opera-Montus and his aides hastened, being of waste. She is further responsible carried directly to the summit by a lift. While the aides adjusted the films such additional house-linen as may be

en bars. "I think it is coming," said one of of the aides finally; and the general and care. Payments are arranged at planation, until finally Atsins ceased stepped over to adjust about his head so much per head and the lady steward talking, folded up his print, returned it

Looking Across the Ocean.

inky darkness. Then came little waves cepted without offense. of dim light which rippled across its Such an occupation with its selfsurface. These ripples became strong respecting independence and its breezy er; indistinct shapes, unrecognizable open-air surroundings, is healthful and and mystic, seemed to rise out of its exhilerating, while the constant stream depths. They cleared away, and there of passengers and tourists, both old and grew up in their place the forms of a new, tends to the formation of pleasant ity's roofs and towers, which stood acquaintances, at all seasons of travel. revealed in distinct outlines for a mo- Another post filled by women on ment and then seemed to drop further board the Norwegian mail steamers is

athwart the clouds. It crossed the en- the voyage, the time of these girls is tire reflector, blotting it out in black- practically their own, and they generness again, but light followed almost ally may be seen employing it in proinstantly. Again nothing but the white ducing those much-admired "Hosfilds until they stood out each distinctly and rich profusion throughout the Scandin-

Aerial Torpedo Boats.

ran his eyes over them. For ten min-both may be seen cloaked and hatted utes he studied. Then he drew the hood from his head, and looked out

marked at last, quietly, but in great bitterness. "Every one ready. twenty-four hours from the time those awful fools in Congress declare war, those hundred torpedo ships will be Tell Curtis we've seen enough."

and in moodiness took his post by the aides came in again.

The man stopped and waited expect antly.

cluded, sullenly.

The aide went out and came back with the shock-headed electrician who had spent the night before by the bulletin-board. His embarrassment was great, but his earnestness equalled it. The former showed in his awkward posture and twitching fingers; the lat-

"Well," exclaimed Montrus, sharply. "I have a concentrator—I want you to look at it—I thought—," he began excitedly, but ended brokenly in the face of a cold stare from Montrus.

the prints. Montrus cast one careless and a second interested glance at the plans. He drew up a chair and studied them, preciation. Then he pushed them away.

"You seem to have something," he

Death to Distant Fleet.

Montrus stared at the shock-headed

boy in a daze. Atsins held himself in check and

leaned forward. their moorings if it works?" he asked, miring farmers. drawing in his breath sharply. The two men looked at each other, and, as Montrus stared, he saw also in his mental vision those hundred dark shanes on the face of the reflector.

Then he pressed a series of buttons um. on his desk, and men entered from different doors.

itself no thought of the inevitable speaking rapidly, "to Sending Station product of incompetence urged into 10, the largest. Let him direct any changes he desires. Tell Susquehanna to give us ten times the usual power

> The men started to obey, and Atsins to follow his guides, when Montrus stepped to him, holding out his hands.

ACTIVE NORWEGIAN WOMEN.

Occupy Good Positions as Stewards on coasung Steamers.

Bright young women in Norway find a rational and congenial employment in a vocation which has not been invaded by their sex in this country. The many steamers that plow the Norwegian fjords and Scandinavian estuaries and rivers employ young women to see to the commisarat and to arrange for the personal comfort of travelers on board. Their official designation is that of "auxiliary ship's officer." That their occupation is a pleasant one is proved by the numerous applications at steamboat offices from young Danish, Swedish and Norwegian ladies anxious to secure such positions. This life on the inland lakes and rivers, is stated in fact to be immensely popular with the strong and energetic girls of Northern Europe. That the duties involved necessitate a girl's having a head on her shoulders goes without saying, and many of the applicants are daughters of either naval or professional men, such as lawyers and doctors.

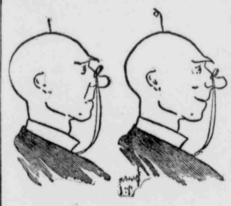
It is the duty of the "auxiliary ship's officer," to ascertain from the purser of the ship how many passengers are booked on the outgoing voyage and to longitude and latitude of which was lay in her provisions accordingly, with an eye to ample supplies, at the same ive in the secret service. To this, time avoiding any risk in the matter and reflector of the electro-photogra-pher, Montrus stood at the railing lookng out over the peaceful river scene age. Plate, china and even kitchen and drumming his fingers on the wood- erty, so that she must necessarily possess business ability in her selection nets the profits over and above the actual expenses, and beyond this may derend upon complimentary contributions from the traveler, which being a cus-At first this remained in black and tomary thing, may be offered and ac-

and further down into the reflector. that of "postal official." Two of these White, fleecy clouds came between young ladies always travel together, the eye and the city's roofs, the lat- their sole duty consisting in carrying ter growing less and less distinct, the mail bags to and from the points There was a sweep of a dark object of embarkation and arrival. During clouds, but finally a far-off flock of foernings"—the beautiful Norwegian specks, which came nearer and nearer embroideries to be met with in such separately, clear-cut in outline and avian lands. These "post ladies," how-identity. There they stood. work to jeopardize their official pos tion as government employes; for long before the landing-stage is reached standing, as it were, at attention. By reason of the precious burdens they bear, they are the first to leave the

Miss Roosevelt's Turnips.

The first instalment of wedding gifts which reached Miss Alice Roosevelt was turnips, the largest known in the art With that he went back to his office, of farming. These mammoth affair "Colonel Sellers' Fruit", were shipped window again. Nothing he could plan to Miss Roosevelt by a tiller of the soil could avert the calamity he had seen in Kansas, who said that the proud in readiness. Presently one of the farmers of this country should not be outdone by the jewelers, and that they have worked hard to produce the best

ONLY ONE OF ITS KIND.



Ifon Lucia to BISS.M. heir was short After a single months I fund it has Myser curly : Myser von half Han Richarton nagadoochull.

which to stock the cellar of the future y. "Now's the time, don't you see? Mrs. Longworth. Huge potatoes were That will direct a million volts-two also sent from South Dakota, where million volts—accurately, to any distance, at any object. Man, if it works, so large that one potato will feed six persons. Pumpkins came likewise from South Dakota, each large enough to fur. nish pies for the family for one winter. If the Longworth couple do not live on the fat of the land for at least one sea-"Will the ships at Kiel ever leave son, it has not been the fault of the ad-

Hard to Believe.

A city man was showing a country cousin through the Metropolitan Muse-"See that bunch of old Egyptian oins over there, Reub?" he said, pointing t one of the showcases; "well, every one "Take this young man. Mr. — ?"

"Not a name," said Atsins. "Just years old." "Quit yer kiddin'," retorted the countryman. "Why, it's only 1906



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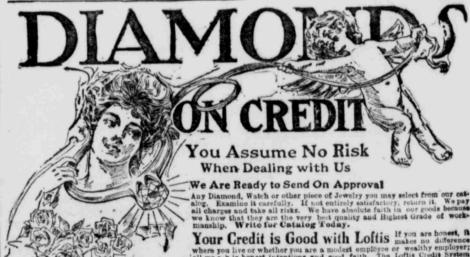
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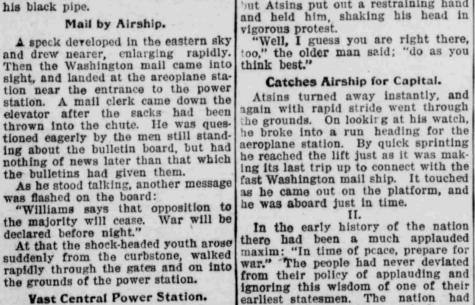
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the grounds of the power station.

cian still sat on the curb and smoked

was the largest of the government fancied or real, surest to raise a popu-power areas into which the country lar demand for war, and least prepared was divided. Its coal mines were of to carry it on. the greatest extent, its power station gigantic, and its employees an army. New York with its millions, and Washington with its institutions, secured all power from the wires charged by the

marked over its doorway, with the serve to destroy this illusion—it was word "Administration." It was surrounded by beds of sweet-peas, wnich open the door, went the length of the with a declaration. inner hall, turned to the right, and knocked at a closed sor.

taking off his cap. A middle-aged, gray-haired, spected on thorough preparation. The natalean idea." an idea." an idea." the cataled man sat at a desk in the center tion in general knew this, but allowed "Take this idea," continued Montrus, now."

HE WAS HELD SPELLBOUND BY THE VEHEMENT EXPLANATION. groups; but the shock-headed electri-(vation. I'll inform the chief." He reached over toward the keyboard out Atsins put out a restraining hand

> again with rapid stride went through sought the general's eyes. the grounds. On looking at his watch, he broke into a run heading for the ing its last trip up to connect with the fast Washington mail ship. It touched as he came out on the platform, and

In the early history of the nation there had been a much applauded the moodiness giving away to keen apmaxim: "In time of pcace, prepare for war." The people had never deviated from their policy of applauding and ignoring this wisdom of one of their said. "Some other time-, if there's earliest statesmen. The nation had anything left of this country, some The Susquehanna Coal and Power never lost its complacency-had never other time I'll look at them. But not District, supplying not only Washing- succeeded in disillusioning itself. It now. I can't now." ton, but New York with electricity for imagined itself peaceful, but in reality. all purposes of light, heat, and power, it was quickest to resent an injury,

Nation in a Trance

With the self-deceiving theory that they were not a militant people, they had continued to delude themselves in dynamos of the Susquehanna District. the '-lief that war for them was next The shock-headed electrician kept his to impossible. Their history, a record rapid stride through the grounds until of conflicts made costly because underhe came to a one-story brick building taken without preparation, did not

Now popular outery was forcing ana gardner then was watering. The other war. At any moment, Congress, young man went up the graveled walk which had been in the throes of debate without looking to right or left, pushed for three days, might open hestilities

Across the Atlantic, as the military men of the nation knew, a martial peo-He was told to erfer, and did so, ple were holding themselves in re-king off his cap.

"I hope you succeed," he said.
"I—I can't fail," stammered the young man. (To be continued.)

small military forces. Commander in Despair. He had been dean of the Department

in-jowled.

He was alone in his office, looking

ered the room.

being transcribed." Another aide came in.

Scouting the Upper Air. "He says he is out of the path of their scouts, and thinks he is safely osted. He must be above them." "Can you reach him?"

A hundred yards farther us the Poomac, stood a gigantic tower, the exact

ly, energetically, and sharply. He drew rom the inner pocket of his blouse a anger of the older man gave way to bound by the younger's vehement ex-

the hood which shut all light from the eyes looking at the reflector.

Montrus almost held his breath as he over the river scene again.

'A hundred, I should say," he re-

"A government electrician is outside," he announced, "and insists on possible growths this winter with seeing you. We have done everything to get rid of him but throw him off the grounds."

"Tell him-" said Montrus angrily, but stopped. "Let him in," he con-

Young Inventor to the Rescue. Atsins turned away instantly, and ter, in the direct look with which he

"Here it is," he concluded, unfolding

"But you don't understand," exclaimed Atsins, quickly and vehementif it will do it-don't you see?"